



Spring 2019

MIAA GAME OFFICIALS NEWSLETTER

Please accept another installment of our seasonal Game Officials Newsletter. On behalf of all of our student-athletes and schools, thank you for your work and time being a game official. Our students know the games don't happen without you.

The fall and winter seasons went along very well and we are now in the final season of the year. Time does seem to fly by. As I was thinking about how fast time moves, it struck me that when I have experienced challenge and difficulty during my career, the initial pressure of a moment seemed to raise my anxiety level. In the end, I got through those times and learned from each one. This is wishing you the same as you officiating contentious games or close scores, just remember we do get through them and your diligent preparation combined with focused attention from the start of the game to the end allows for the game to be played to a conclusion. That successful result is due in large part to your work and a successful conclusion encapsulates winning, losing, learning, being challenged, elated, and possible disappointment. The range of impacts on the lives of students is tremendous.

Thank you for being a HUGE part of every game and allowing our students to grow through the vehicle of educational athletics.

Richard Pearson
MIAA Associate Director
MIAA Game Officials Committee



Contact Us

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CONCUSSION INFORMATION/ AED'S IN SCHOOLS

Automated External
Defibrillators in Schools



Click [here](#) to view AED's
in School Guidelines

MIAA/NFHS Concussion Training

105 CMR: Department of Public Health – 201.007 (E) Training Program

*“Game officials **shall complete** one of the training programs approved by the Department as specified on the Department’s website **annually** and shall provide independent verification of completion of the training program to schools or school districts upon request.”*

The yearly certification requirement is only valid between July 1st and June 30th of a given academic year. In support of Department of Public Health (DPH) regulations cited above, and in the best interests of our student athletes, all MIAA Tournament Directors and Tournament Assignors will require successful completion of a DPH approved concussion training program as a condition for an official accepting an MIAA tournament assignment. Your acceptance of an MIAA Tournament contest assignment will be considered a implicit confirmation that you are a member in good standing with your local board, that you are enrolled with the MIAA, and that you have successfully completed a concussion training program as required by the DPH.

The National Federation of High Schools (NFHS) training module, “Concussions in Sports: What You Need to Know”, is one of the MDPH approved training programs and may accessed using the link:

[Concussions in Sports: What You Need to Know](#)

(click link to access training course information)

SPORTSMANSHIP

MIAA TEAM SPORTSMANSHIP AWARDS



The MIAA would like to encourage game officials to nominate a boys or girls varsity team for consideration by that MIAA Sport Committee for recognition at the MIAA State Championship contest. Nominated teams do not have to be tournament teams but should exemplify the tenets of good sportsmanship to the highest degree. The nomination form information can be found in each sport specific [MIAA Tournament Format](#) or the [Team Sportsmanship page](#)



2019 SPRING SPORT RULE CHANGES / HIGHLIGHTS

Sports Specific Tournament Formats

All game officials are required to be well versed on their sport tournament format in order to be assigned to tournament events. A format is a detailed breakdown of how each sport tournament is conducted. It's important to remember that each sport has its own format, covering dates, rules, tournament ball agreements, overtime rules, and tie breakers, among other information. This information can be found on the [MIAA Tournament Formats](#) page of the MIAA website (miaa.net).

Rugby Rule Highlights

Uniform option:

“Boys have the option to wear cotton blend long tights, with single inside leg seam under their shorts and socks. Tights must be the same solid color throughout the team.”

While girls' were already permitted to wear tights, they must be the same solid color throughout the team.

Track & Field/ Cross Country

4-3-1, 4-3-1b, 4-3-1c: Clarifies that for a track and field as well as cross country uniform to be considered legal, the singlet and bottom or one-piece uniform shall be school-issued or school-approved. This change for school approval addresses the need for athletes to purchase a part of their uniform, but such individual apparel shall be approved by the school coach to be certain it meets all rule requirements.

For all NFHS Track &field/Cross Country Rules Changes - 2018-19 please click [HERE](#)

Softball

Softball Highlights :

- Last year, the MIAA Softball Committee voted to not allow pitchers to step back before they pitch.
- Softball does not have intentional walks – a pitcher must pitch to a batter.

For all NFHS Softball Rules Changes - 2019- please click [HERE](#)

Lacrosse

Lacrosse Seasonal Reminder - 2019

Officials – Girls' Lacrosse:

For MIAA Tournaments, the practice of two (2) MIAA enrolled Game Officials (3 recommended) being assigned to all preliminary round games through quarter finals games will continue. However, beginning in 2020, three (3) MIAA enrolled game officials will be required for all preliminary girls' lacrosse contests (preliminary rounds – **state final rounds**).

2022 Uniform Change: Beginning in the Spring of 2022, the home team will be required to wear white jerseys and the away team will be required to wear non-white jerseys

NFHS Resources

[Memo to Parents: Stop Criticizing High School Officials - February 05, 2019](#)

[What You Permit, You Promote: Let's Shut Down Poor Behavior](#)

[The Official Experience](#)

[Retention, Safety Among Officiating Concerns Across Country](#)

For all MIAA important Game Officials' links please click [HERE](#)

Beginning with the 2019-20 school year, all MIAA sports that have NFHS rules written for them will use those NFHS rules. The newly affected sports are **baseball, football, girls' lacrosse, boys' volleyball and girls' volleyball**.



TRANSITIONING TO NFHS FOOTBALL RULES — FALL 2019

A subcommittee of the MIAA Football Committee has been working on needs to help in the transition to NFHS Football Rules which begin in the fall of 2019. These efforts include the support and educational opportunities for coaches and officials during the next 6 months as everyone prepares for the fall of 2019.

The subcommittee developed a plan to hold three meetings during the next 6 months with the first meeting at end of March/early April, second meeting in June, and a third meeting in August. The meetings are planned to help educate both officials and coaches on the differences between NCAA and NFHS football rules. The first meeting (early April) is a combined meeting with officials and coaches introducing the major areas of difference between the two sets of rules. Each of these meetings will be approximately 2 hours in length, broken down to a 60 minute presentation on 8-10 broad areas of the game and the differences (NCAA to NFHS) followed by a question and answer period. To accommodate as many coaches and officials as possible, meetings are being organized regionally and planned to be held in the high school auditorium. Future meetings for June and August are still being designed and planned.

If any football official is looking for further information, please reach out to your football board leadership.



Transitioning to NFHS Baseball Rules – Spring 2020

All MIAA baseball schools and games will begin using NFHS Baseball Rules in the Spring of 2020. Since December of 2018, a subcommittee has been meeting to discuss transition strategies and ideas to help players, officials and coaches to transition from MLB rules to NFHS rules. A major part of the discussion involves pitch counts which is a requirement for all states using NFHS rules. The MBCA worked hard to develop a pitch count protocol for Massachusetts schools which will be used in the spring of 2020. Although not finalized, the subcommittee is working on it ASAP so there will be plenty of time to educate all baseball parties on its usage prior to the spring of 2020.

No major changes are in place for this spring 2019. All officials should be sure to consult the 2019 [MIAA Baseball Format](#) for any needs during this spring season.

Transitioning to NFHS Girls & Boys Volleyball Rules — 2019-20

All MIAA boys and volleyball schools and games will begin using NFHS Volleyball Rules in the fall of 2019 (girls volleyball) and spring of 2020 (boys volleyball). In December 2018 and February 2019, a Volleyball Leaders Subcommittee met to discuss transition strategies and ideas to help players, officials and coaches to transition from NCAA rules to NFHS rules. A major part of the discussion involved the development of educational workshops and the presentation of six rules modification proposals. In March 2019 workshops were conducted for coaches, officials and assigners and the MIAA Board of Directors approved the [six rules modification proposals](#).

Please refer to the NFHS Volleyball Rules Transition for fall 2019 located on the volleyball page on the MIAA website to access the rules modifications and other pertinent information. Going forward, workshops will be offered in June 2019 and information will continue to be added to the NFHS Volleyball Rules Transition for the fall 2019. This information can be found on the [MIAA Volleyball page](#) of the MIAA website ([miaa.net](#)).



MIAA BACKGROUND CHECK INFORMATION



Click above to view the MIAA policy for Massachusetts High School sports officials

IMPORTANT REMINDER

All officials who registered and completed the background check in year two of this process (2016-17), your background check has expired. Please be aware that when you register this year, you will be charged for another background check. Background checks are valid for three years.

FAQ's

1. I registered and have been approved by the MIAA under one email address, but my assignor has a different email for me under their account, thus I am not showing as approved to them. What should I do?

Answer: You will need to contact Arbiter support, 1-800-311-4060, and ask them to link your email accounts together. The email you provided for the MIAA background check is the one that will show you as an approved official.

2. If my assignor uses Arbiter to assign games, how can they gain access to the list of approved officials?

Answer: The assignor will need to contact Phil Napolitano, pnapolitano@miaa.net and provide their 6-digit arbiter account number, along with the sport and leagues they assign. They will be linked to the MIAA super group. Once linked, the eligibility column will show up in their assigning account.



ArbiterSports

2019-20 REGISTRATION WILL OPEN
ON JULY 1, 2019

NOTE: Background checks are valid for three years but officials still must register Annually

NEW OFFICIALS

Background Check and Registration

- 1) Click on the **registration tab** on the top left of the MIAA Arbiter Sports page.
- 2) Select all sports for which you wish to register and click the REGISTER button.
- 3) Follow directions and complete all information and consents. A photo is not required. If you already have an Arbiter account, it will recognize your email once you type it in, then follow all directions.

RETURNING OFFICIALS

Registration Only/Previously Completed Background Check

Log in prior to entering registration

All officials must register annually - \$10 per sport. Returning officials must confirm pre-populated information and complete all steps of the registration process (see steps above under "New Officials"). Please check and/or correct all contact information.

In order to finalize your registration you will need to once again consent to the **background check in step 5 of the registration process**, even though you have already been approved. During the final payment step you will not be charged for another background check nor will it be run again. Approved background checks are valid for three years. If you were approved during the 2015-16 school year, it was valid until June 30, 2018. If you were approved during 2016-17 school year, it is valid until June 30, 2019.



MIAA GAME OFFICIALS UPCOMING EVENTS

MI AA Game Official of the Year Award



Awards to be presented at the MIAA Official of the Year Banquet
Wednesday, May 29, 2019



2018-19 Game Officials

Thank you for your contributions to student - athletes development !

Sportsmanship

- ◆ Playing fair
- ◆ Following the rules of the game
- ◆ Respecting the judgement of referees and officials
- ◆ Treating opponents with respect

—Kidshealth.org

